Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Pol 14 Viet S (1560)

XR Pol 15-2 Viet S

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 13850 280657Z

17
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /074 W
036945

R 271205Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Sarah Izguierdo DATE 1/26/72
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

Saigon 13850 9/21/71

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: DETENTION AND RELEASE OF TRAN TUAN NHAM

REF: A. SAIGON 13158 — Pol 4 Viet S
B. SAIGON 13454 Pol 14 Viet S

1. LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATE TRAN TUAN NHAM AND FOUR STUDENTS WERE DETAINED BY POLICE AUGUST 26. THIS WAS THIRD TIME NHAM HAD BEEN APPREHENDED. VIETNAM GUARDIAN REPORTED IN ANGUST 28 EDITION THAT NHAM WAS STILL BEING HELD. HOWEVER POLICE INSIST HE WAS RELEASED AUGUST 26 WITHOUT CHARGES BEING PRESSED.

2. NHAM AND THE STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED IN A FRACAS NEAR THE LOWER HOUSE WHILE ON THE WAY TO THE SAIGON CENTRAL MARKET WHERE NHAM PURPORTEDLY INTENDED TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT SEIZURE OF HIS POSTERS AND LEAFLETS (REFTELS). MISSION OFFICIAL WHO WITNESSED THE INCIDENT REPORTS POLICE BEAT NHAM AND HIS FOLLOWERS, AND APPARENTLY ALSO SOME BYSTANDERS, WHILE MAKING THE ARRESTS. REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE PRESENT AT THE SCENE AND US PRESS COVERAGE

(2)

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 13850 280657Z

CAN BE EXPECTED. WHILE THE INCIDENT WAS TAKING PLACE, SUPPORTERS OF NHAM CIRCULATED THROUGH THE CROWD HANDING OUT NHAM'S CAMPAIGN BROADSHEETS.

3. COMMENT: NHAM, WHO IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH MADAME NGO BA THANH AND THE RADICAL OPPOSITIONISTS, UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOMED THE HARSH POLICE REACTION. HE HAS APPEARED FROM THE BEGINNING ANXIOUS FOR PUBLICITY, BOTH TO FURTHER HIS WOW UNHOPEFUL CANDIDACY AND TO EMBARRASS THE GVN.
BUNKER